GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2883
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
New Telecom Policy
Chavan Shri Ashok Shankarrao;Gaikwad Dr. Sunil Baliram;Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran;Nagar Shri Rodmal;Singh Shri Kunwar Haribansh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on a New Telecom Policy and if so, the details and the objectives thereof;

(b) the manner in which the said policy is different from National Telecom Policy, 2012;

(c) the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government has set any target for internet penetration in the next five years and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for ease of doing business for telecom service providers in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Yes Madam, the Department of Telecom envisages to formulate a new National Telecom Policy in view of rapid technological advancement in the sector. The process of formulation of National Telecom Policy -2018 is at a very nascent stage.
(c) The policy is likely to be formulated by the end of this financial year.
(d) No new targets for internet penetration have been fixed. However, National Telecom Policy-2012 targets achieving 600 million broadband connections by the year 2020 at minimum 2 Mbps download speed and making available higher speeds of at least 100 Mbps on demand.

(e) For ease of doing business for Telecom Service Providers various policy decisions have been taken by the Department of Telecommunications, which include:

(i) Sharing of active infrastructure permitted for Telecom Service Providers;
(ii) Spectrum sharing and trading among Telecom Service providers permitted;
(iii) Wireless Operating License for Access Spectrum discontinued;
(iv) Aadhaar based E-KYC services for issuing mobile connections introduced;
(v) Requirement of prior approval before launching of services done away with and only prior intimation required for launching of services of Telecom Services Providers;
(vi) In order to utilize resources efficiently, interconnection at Internet Protocol (IP) level permitted for Telecom Service Providers;
(vii) Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules, 2016 for regulating overground and underground infrastructure notified in November, 2016 to facilitate expeditious roll out of the network.

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